



Educator Preparation Fall 2026 Newsletter

In this Issue: ***There's a lot happening in educator preparation!***

Meet our new team members, find volunteer opportunities, review new training resources, explore educator placement opportunities, and discover ways to engage with educator preparation across the Commonwealth.

EPP Updates

Annual Reporting, Accreditation and Annual Verification

Congratulations to Brescia University, Morehead State University, Simmons College of Kentucky and Spalding University on your accreditations!

Thank you to all EPPs for participating in the pilot of the new annual review. We appreciate the feedback and look forward to continuing our collegial partnership.

Important Dates:

- **Sept. 15:** EPP Annual Review reports for 2025-2026 will be sent out.
- **Oct. 1:** EPP Annual Review Guidance and Training Video for 2026-2027 will be available.

Follow-up meetings may be scheduled by request.

New and Continued Program Approvals

Congratulations to the spring 2026 new and continued program approvals!

The Kentucky Department of Education's Program Review Team is launching initial training sessions for [Program Manager](#), our new platform for Continued Program Reviews.

These sessions will help you navigate the system, input data and measure compliance of program review milestones more efficiently.

Refer to the *Contact Us* section to schedule your training now!

Cooperating Teacher and University Supervisor Training

We are pleased to announce the launch of the updated Cooperating Teacher and University Supervisor Training resources.

As you prepare for upcoming clinical experiences and student teacher placements, please share these resources with cooperating teachers and university supervisors.

Both are required to complete approved training before the start of student teaching. The professional learning is available through the [KY Learning Hub](#) and covers key responsibilities, support strategies and effective assessment.

SAT Waiver Process

The EPSB approved a [regulatory waiver](#) on June 22, 2026, allowing educator preparation programs (EPPs) to accept qualifying SAT scores in place of the required assessment for admission. This option gives candidates who have already taken the SAT an alternative to completing a separate assessment and helps reduce barriers to entering Kentucky's educator preparation programs.

EPPs are encouraged to review their admission policies, communicate this option to

EPPs are encouraged to review their admission policies, communicate this option to candidates and maintain SAT score documentation in [KECS](#).

Thank you to the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) and KDE's Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness staff for the support in the creation of these training materials for our educators!

Literacy and Numeracy Manager Services

Welcome Brittany and Amanda to the Ed Prep Team!



A message from KDE's Literacy and Numeracy Team:

"Thank you to all EPPs across the state for your time, partnership, and commitment throughout the third-party reviews for literacy and numeracy. We truly value the work you are doing to prepare our future educators.

Building on the insights from those reviews, EPPs will have opportunities this fall and spring to engage in a self-study that celebrates strengths, explores program practices, and identifies opportunities for continued growth and collaboration.

As new managers, we are especially excited to get to know you and learn alongside you. We look forward to connecting with each EPP, listening to your experiences and needs, and finding ways to **partner, encourage and support** your work as we continue to strengthen and transform educator preparation across the state."

Literacy

Brittany Worthen, KDE Literacy Program Manager

My journey in education began 19 years ago as an elementary teacher and reading interventionist before transitioning to higher education at Asbury University, where I spent 10 years preparing and supporting future educators. I earned my doctorate in instruction and administration, with a focus in literacy from the University of Kentucky.



Today, I'm passionate about being a literacy champion across Kentucky. My work centers on strengthening literacy instruction, supporting educator preparation, and connecting people, ideas and resources to help educators and future teachers thrive.

I'm grateful to call central Kentucky home, where I live with my family on our little country farm. It's a joy and privilege to serve, learn and collaborate alongside educators across the Commonwealth.

Numeracy



Amanda Lee, KDE Numeracy Program Manager

I am excited to serve as Kentucky's numeracy manager for educator preparation programs across the Commonwealth. This year marks my 15th year in education, including 10 years as a classroom teacher and four years with the Mathematics Achievement Fund – serving as both a coach and a mentor through the Kentucky Center for Mathematics.

As a proud Anderson County native and lifelong resident, I enjoy making the most of life alongside my husband, our two boys and our three dogs.

I'm passionate about supporting educators through collaboration, coaching and shared learning. I look forward to working alongside EPP faculty and partners to strengthen mathematics preparation for Kentucky's future teachers.

Kentucky Educator Placement Service

Connecting Educators with Opportunity

The Kentucky Educator Placement System (KEPS) is the Commonwealth's official registry for certified educator vacancies under [KRS 160.380\(2\)\(b\)](#).

School districts use KEPS to post openings, connect with qualified candidates and meet required vacancy-posting timelines. KDE uses KEPS to analyze data and monitor workforce trends and critical shortages across the state.

For more information, please contact [Renee Scott](#), the Kentucky Department of Education's KEPS program consultant.

Save the Date!

Literacy

Monthly Virtual Meeting Options

- Sept. 21 | 10-11 a.m. ET
OR Sept. 23 | 1-2 p.m. ET
- Oct. 26 | 10-11 a.m. ET
OR Oct. 28 | 1-2 p.m. ET
- Nov. 9 | 10-11 a.m. ET
OR Nov. 11 | 1-2 p.m. ET

In-Person Day

- Jan. 7, 2027 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ET

Numeracy

Monthly Virtual Meeting Options

- Sept. 23 | 2-3 p.m. ET
OR Sept. 24 | 9-10 a.m. ET
- Oct. 28 | 2-3 p.m. ET
OR Oct. 29 | 9-10 a.m. ET
- Nov. 18 | 2-3 p.m. ET
OR Nov. 19 | 9-10 a.m. ET

In-Person Day

- Jan. 7, 2027 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ET

We look forward to being in conversation with you this fall and to building strong, meaningful partnerships that support the important work happening across your EPPs.

Educators Rising Kentucky State Conference

- March 1-2, 2027 | 8 a.m.-4 p.m. ET | Central Bank Center, Lexington

If you are interested in volunteering to be a judge at the competition or attending the two-day conference, please contact [Bree Massie](#), Educators Rising state coordinator.

Your Learning Launchpad

How can I support the Educator Preparation Branch this year?

- Join the [Program Review Committee](#)
- Become a [content reviewer](#) for new programs
- [Update KDE](#) with your College of Education's team contact information as needed.

How can you continue to strengthen your ed prep program?

- Participate in the [Kentucky Regional Teacher Launch Academy](#).

- Schedule a meeting or invite your new [Literacy](#) and [Numeracy](#) Managers to your campus!

Are you looking for specific resource, program, route or need to run a report?

- [Read to Succeed and Numeracy Counts Resources](#)
- [Cooperating Teacher Training Information](#)
- [University Supervisor Training Information](#)
- Log on to [Program Manager](#) where you can use Advanced Program Search to find an approved program or run EPP reports.



Thank you from your Ed Prep Team!

We appreciate your ongoing partnership and encourage you to **subscribe below** to receive future updates from our branch.

Wishing you a wonderful fall semester! See you next year for the spring 2027 updates.

Contact Us!

- **Accredited Programs and Annual Reporting:** [Melissa Diebel](#), KDE/KBE Academic Program Manager
 - **New Program(s) and Content Review(s):** [Kimberly Arington](#), Education Administration Program Consultant II
 - **Continuing Program Evaluation:** [Mike Nelson](#), Education Program Manager
 - **Assessment, Field Placement and Cooperating Teacher Information:** [Brandon Harrod](#), Program Coordinator
 - **Numeracy:** [Amanda Lee](#), KDE/KBE Academic Program Manager
 - **Literacy:** [Brittany Worthen](#), KDE/KBE Academic Program Manager
 - **Kentucky Educator Placement Service:** [Renee Scott](#), Education Administration Program Consultant II
 - **Administrative Support:** [Alexis Bigard](#), Administrative Assistant Senior
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If you would like to **unsubscribe**, please contact, [Alexis Bigard](#), thank you!